

Irish Affairs

[1]

1680

1699

(5)

The present Condition of LONDON-DERRY:

WITH

A particular Relation of the Cruelties acted by the Irish and French Papists on the Protestants in Ireland.

Licensed and Entered according to Order.

S. P. R.

THis City and parts adjacent, is extream full of the despoiled Protestants from Ireland, whose Conditions are most Deplorable, and under very different Circumstances. The Nobility, Gentry, and Clergie, are robbed and plundered of their personal Estates; and Sir Patrick Trant, and the rest of the Commissioners for Sequestering their Real Estates, have been so effectually Zealous therein as not to leave them power over one Penny Rent, or Arrears of Rent, but appropriated all to the support of their Army.

The Lord Viscount *Maxarine*, in Plate, Money, Household-Goods, Horses, &c. hath been plundered to the value of 20000 l. Sterling, or upward; and others proportionable. His Lordship, and some few more, with great difficulty, are got into *Scotland*. And upon a modest Computation, the Irish have already despoiled the Protestants, in Money, Plate, Stock, and Household-Good, at least Two Millions Sterling.

The Farmers and Tradesmen are robbed and plundered of all their Stock and Household-Goods, notwithstanding the several Declarations of *Tyrconnel*, and since of the late King, to the contrary; by which they and their Families are not only deprived of Bread, but the means to get it, and now lie at the mercy of their Robbers for their Lives and that which should support Life; whose Mercies are such, that they have lately murdered hundreds, and others have perished, and daily do, for want of Food. The rest living in the daily fear of having their Throats cut.

One Mr. *Roberts Burroughs*, an Attorney and rich, had all his Substance taken from him, turn'd out of doors, and died in the Fields with Hunger and Cold. And as many other dismal Relations we have, as would fill a Volume.

The Protestants in the Province of *Ulster*, having Intelligence of the Bloody, Inhumane, and Barbarous Cruelties exercised by the Irish on the Protestants in the other Provinces, and dreading to fall under the like Cruelties, upon the first approach of the Irish Army, they universally deserted their Habitations, leaving their Goods, Corn, Hay, and Stock, as a Prey to their Enemies;

who making their advances into their Country, with a Force that they were no ways able to resist or oppose, the Women and Children in great Consternation, Wants, and Confusion, made towards *Colrain* and *London-Derry*. The Men in the mean while embodying themselves, cut down their Bridges, and digged up the ways to make the Roads unpassable for their Bloody Enemies; but having neither Moneys nor Provisions for their support, nor Arms or Ammunition sufficient for their defence, and the Irish so numerous as to encompass them, they were forced to a Retreat; and as they found the Enemies Force divided, they as frequently sallied forth upon them and beat them, thereby getting opportunities to set fire to their own Hay and Corn they had before deserted; and by both these ways so often distressed their Enemies, that their best Horse, which was the main strength of their Army, are so weakened and broken, as never to be able to recover or recruit the loss sustained. Though the late King was at the head of them with the flower of the Army, these poor people, in a manner unarm'd, without Order, Discipline, or necessary Provisions, made this Resistance, in daily hopes of Succour; but numbers against them, and wants increasing, they were, with their Wives, Children, and Servants, forced and driven, like a flock of Sheep, until they came almost to the very Gates of *London-Derry*, in hopes of shelter; but alas! they found the Gates shut against them, and the Garrison refusing them Entrance, alledging their shortness of Provisions for support of such as were necessary to defend the place; and for that reason had advised Colonel *Richards* and Colonel *Cunningham*, with their Regiments, to go back for *England*; and also the same unto the Lord *Blaney*, Sir *Arthur Royston*, Captain *Dawson*, and some hundreds of Officers, who came to them from *Colrain*; viz. to speed into *England*, and hasten their return with the Army from *England*, that so they might be enabled to take the Field.

Accordingly the said two Regiments are come back, Col. *Richards*'s being quartered in this City. Since which, a Serjeant and a Soldier that deserted, have been tryed; the first is sentenced to die, and the latter to run the Gant.

Gantlet three times through two Regiments.

The *Swallow* Frigate was one of their Convoys, Capt. — Commander, who brought over near 300 Passengers, amongst which were the brave Lord *Blaney*, Sir *Arthur Royden*, and many Persons of Quality, who make sad Complaints against the Captain, as more Barbarous than the *Irish*, for that he took from several two, three, and more Guineys for their passage, of few less than 20 s. and of those that had not Money, took their Silver-hilted Swords, Watches, &c. nay kept some who had not such things on board, until he had forced them to signe Warrants to confess Judgments for what sums he pleased, telling them, *His Ship was his only Advantage, and that time his Harvest-time.* Sir *Arthur Royden* had a fine Horse worth 100 l. which he would have shipt to present to the King, but he denied him and others; so Sir *Arthur* shot him dead, saying, *The Papists should never have him;* and some other Gentlemen also shot their Horses: which the Captain seeing, offered to shipt those left, if the Owners would give him them; which some did, demanding them again on this side, but are refused. Of all which we hope his Majesty before this hath had humbly represented to him, and cause him to be exemplarily punished for such unheard-of Oppressions.

The late K. was a few days since with the Army at *Strabane*, ten miles short of *London-Derry*, but is now gone back to *Dublin*, and the Army not advanced nearer, when these Gentlemen came from *Derry*; which it's not doubted will be able to hold out, until the Succours from *England* by Sea, and by way of *Scotland*, arrives: for that the Garrison is unanimous, and in no want of Arms, Ammunition, or Provisions; though the late King's Army have destroy'd and spent all in the North that the Protestants left, which is the reason they do not advance further.

But that which is to be lamented, is the distressed Condition of some thousands of Men, Women, and Children, kept out of *Derry*, who it's feared will inevitably fall a Sacrifice to the Papists Cruelty, (or die by Hunger) they being commanded and paid by French Officers, who preside in Council, Army, and Garrisons: So that *Ireland* is now become a French Province; and he who was lately King of *England*, *Scotland*, *France*, and *Ireland*, is now but the French King's Deputy of that Kingdom: which it is here credibly affirm'd, hath so disgusted the very *Irish* themselves, that Major General *Maccarty*, many of the Nobility and Gentry, and above 300 good Officers have thrown up their Commissions, seeing the French are put in over their heads in all great Commands and Trusts. And those of the *Irish* who are men of Estates and Sence, begin to wish themselves *Chester*, May 1. 1689.

again under an English Government, though Protestants, and oft reflect on their Happiness under it; and also of an old Irish Proverb, of the *Irish* weeping over the English Graves.

And the most Judicious of the *Irish* Papists do say, That when the Parliament that the late K. James hath summon'd to assemble at *Dublin*, shall meet, they will be of opinion to save their Estates and Families, and advise their King to sit down with satisfaction, without the Power of a King, and retire to a Monastery, especially finding all his Designs frustrated in *Scotland*, and his Friends in *Ireland* leave him, the fore-door and back-door shut and bolted in both Kingdoms, and a Confederate Army, and a Naval Force, sufficient to Conquer *France*, ready to pour in upon them.

The Town of *Colrain* is in the County of *Antrim*, an open place, not capable of Defence, but was made use of by the Protestants as a place of Rendezvous and Shelter, and amongst them by the aforementioned Lord *Blaney*, the Lord *Kingston*, and many Persons of Quality, who with what Force and Arms they could get together, bravely supported the Protestant Interest, in expectation of a Force from *England*, to be enabled to take the Field, and secure that part of the Kingdom; but the *Irish* Army advancing upon them so early, that they were constrained to leave it, and retire to the City of *London-Derry*; whence our last Advices here lay, That their Governour, Col. *Lunder*, hath given them such cause to suspect his Faithfulness, that they have seized and Confined him, and made one Mr. *George Walker*, a Minister, Governour; and some affirm, that lately came from thence, that the said Colonel, either through Cowardize or Perfidy, discouraged and prevented the Garrison from taking those advantages against the Enemy that were offered, and thereby prevented the securing the whole Northern parts.

It's reported here, that the late King sent a very kind Letter to the Lord *Blaney*, insinuating the Loyalty and Services of his Family, persuading him to lay down his Arms, and surrender *Colrain*; and all he had done should be buried in Oblivion; and his Lordship received into Favour. But his Lordship answer'd, He had now a King upon whose Word he could depend and trust; but never would do so, but with his Sword in his Hand. His Lordship hath a very great Interest in the North of *Ireland*, and stayed with them until he had spent of his own Estate all he had in Money, or could raise on his Tenants; and it's thought did not bring into *England* 5 l. the rest being laid out for Arms, and towards the support of those that adhered to him; in whose, and the Country's Hearts, his Lordship hath raised a Monument of lasting Honour.

The Numbers of Gentry and others now here from *Ireland*, hath caused all sorts of Provisions to advance in price: for remedy of which, our worthy Mayor hath Proclaimed a Free Market to be held every day. We have a Report, that his Majesty hath displaced Col. *Richards*, and Col. *Cunningham*, and given their Commands to Sir *George Saint George*, late of *Ireland*, and Col. *Stuart*, who commanded a Company in the late Royal Regiment of Foot-Guards, and that they are expected down this Week from *London*; and with all the other Forces on the West and Northern Coast, to Embark forthwith for *Dublin*. Thus, Sir, I have in a tedious undigested manner, as well as I could, answer'd your desire; and am,

S I R,

Yours, W. B.

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